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REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE RECOMMENDATIONS AND DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY AT ITS TENTH SPECIAL SESSION: IMPLEMENTATION OF THE GUIDELINES FOR APPROPRIATE TYPES OF CONFIDENCE-BUILDING MEASURES

Report of the Secretary-General

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II. REPLIES RECEIVED FROM GOVERNMENTS

BULGARIA

[Original: English]

[21 June 1994]

1. The Government of the Republic of Bulgaria shares the view that confidence-building measures, especially when applied in a comprehensive manner, can be conducive to achieving structures of security, based on cooperation and openness and, thus, contribute to the wider objective of renunciating the threat or use of force.

2. On a regional and subregional level, Bulgaria has, over the past few years, contributed substantially to utilizing the potential of confidence- and security-building measures in fostering the cause of European cooperative security. In those efforts the Government of Bulgaria has been led by the conviction that confidence-building measures pursued at the regional level can contribute to enhancing global security.

3. Following the implementation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which fully merits to be called the first cooperative arms control agreement, huge military arsenals, comprising offensive potential, are being destroyed. The cooperative spirit brought about unprecedented openness and transparency.

4. In addition, Bulgaria participates regularly in the exchange of military information in the communication framework of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe.

5. The security and defence policy of Bulgaria conforms with its commitments under the confidence- and security-building regime established by the 1992 Vienna Document and the additional confidence- and security-building measures adopted on 25 November 1993, concerning military contacts and information, and the exchange of information on military planning.

6. Being aware of the immense and unique confidence-building nature of the Treaty on Open Skies, Bulgaria ratified this important international instrument.

7. In accordance with the provisions of the Treaty, Bulgaria is now preparing its participation in the observation of flights regime and the opening of its airspace to observation. At the same time, Bulgaria, like other States parties to the Treaty, is experiencing economic difficulties in acquiring its own observation aircraft.

8. All steps undertaken by the Government of Bulgaria in developing annual working plans for dialogue and cooperation in the military sphere between Bulgaria and the North Atlantic Cooperation Council (NACC) and Bulgaria's participation in the Partnership for Peace Programme should also be considered

in the overall context of Bulgaria's policy in favour of strengthening the confidence- and security-building measures regime.

9. In the past few years bilateral military cooperation was further enhanced through agreements which Bulgaria's Ministry of Defence signed with its counterparts in Austria, France, Germany, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Hungary, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, India, Albania, Greece, Turkey and Romania. Based on these agreements, annual plans for specific military cooperation activities with these countries are being implemented.

10. The adoption, at the level of Chiefs of General Staffs, of Bilateral Bulgarian-Turkish and Bulgarian-Greek additional measures to the 1992 Vienna Document on strengthening confidence and security, represents an important contribution to the European confidence- and security-building measures regime, as in their character the additional measures reach beyond the scope of the Vienna Agreement on confidence- and security-building measures.

11. In the opinion of the Government of Bulgaria further initiatives in the area of confidence- and security-building measures should cover the whole spectrum of forums and activities. Bulgaria is interested in involving the United Nations, the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE), the Western European Union (WEU), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and other global and regional organizations, as well as in establishing new subregional and bilateral avenues for elaborating confidence- and security-building and stabilization measures.

12. Such measures could take the form of:

(a) Political and military consultations on security issues concerning Europe and the Balkans;

(b) Military contacts, including regular meetings between the Ministers for Defence and the Chiefs of General Staffs;

(c) The initiation of experts' and consultants' activities related to the issues of military balance and military doctrines and the elaboration of common positions on issues of international security;

(d) Joint training programmes, in particular for the purposes of peace-keeping;

(e) Joint staff exercises at various command levels and the conduct of joint activities of other military units, institutions, individual troop divisions and units with a view to increasing transparency and confidence in the military sphere;

(f) Exchange of information on the armed forces, etc.

13. The Republic of Bulgaria is in favour of a more homogeneous security policy through harmonization of existing arms control regimes and the elaboration of new global confidence-building measures. The establishment of maximum levels of

holdings and personnel of the newly admitted States should also be supplemented with a set or sets of various additional confidence- and security-building and stabilization measures applicable for specific areas or otherwise, as agreed upon among all States of the South-East European region. This will contribute to better meeting each individual country's security requirements, thus completing the overall regional arms control regime for South-East Europe.

FINLAND

[Original: English]

[12 July 1994]

1. The Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) has created a community of values and a unity of purpose in a region that covers transatlantic as well as Eurasian lands. In addition to military confidence-building, CSCE covers a wide range of activities that aim at strengthening peace and security in the whole of Europe. The confidence-building measures agreed upon within CSCE are in line with and have also served as a model to the guidelines for confidence-building measures.

2. The Vienna Document 1992 builds on the confidence-building measures of the Final Act signed at Helsinki on 1 August 1975, the Stockholm Document 1986 and the Vienna Document 1990. It is designed to promote openness and to strengthen confidence and security among the participating States.

3. The agreed measures include an annual exchange of detailed information about military forces and their equipment, information on plans for the deployment of weapons and information on military budgets. Important also is the inclusion of a mechanism for consultation regarding unusual military activities and cooperation concerning hazardous incidents of a miliary nature. The voluntary hosting of visits to dispel concerns about military activities is one of the measures to increase confidence. The practice of notification of military activities, their observation and inspection have reduced misunderstandings and suspicion between the participating States.

4. The Treaty on Open Skies, signed in 1992 between the members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the former Warsaw Pact countries, allows for observation flights to be made over the territory of other Treaty signatories. It is a major confidence- and security-building measure, which covers also territory outside the CSCE zone in that all Canadian, United States and Russian territory is open to over-flight.

5. The CSCE Forum for Security Cooperation was established in 1992 to start new negotiations on disarmament and confidence- and security-building among all CSCE participating States. At the end of 1993, the Forum concluded negotiations on documents on defence planning, principles governing conventional arms transfers, a programme on military cooperation and contacts, and stabilizing measures for localized crisis situation.

6. Finland has actively supported and taken part in the creation of confidence-building measures both globally and regionally. In the view of Finland, the implementation of the confidence- and security-building measures of the Vienna Document has proceeded well. There are, however, still States that have not provided all the information required by the Vienna Document or participated in other confidence- and security-building measures activities. While recognizing the importance of the development of new confidence-building measures, attention should also be paid to comprehensive and uniform implementation of the existing confidence- and security-building measures commitments. Finland has in its own internal decision-making process attached great importance to the full implementation of the confidence- and security-building measures provisions.

7. Within the Forum for Security Cooperation Finland participates actively in the negotiation on harmonization of obligations of the Vienna Document 1992 and the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, as well as in the negotiations on the development of the Vienna Document, on the global exchange of military information and on the CSCE Code of Conduct. Finland was the first State to present information based on the new defence planning document. This document, along with Finland's annual information-exchange document were annexed to the Finnish return for the Register of Conventional Arms for the year 1993.

8. Finland has also participated in the discussion on the future of the CSCE disarmament and the development of the confidence- and security-building measures after the CSCE Review Conference at Budapest in 1994. In its disarmament policy, Finland emphasizes the importance of the integrity and full compliance of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe.

9. Preventive diplomacy is an increasingly important feature in the work of CSCE to increase confidence and security in Europe. Finland has sent participants to the CSCE missions to Estonia, Latvia, Georgia, Serbia-Montenegro and Ukraine.